

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02989 260754Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 /061 W

----- 034289

R 251510Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9224

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: SVOBODA REACHES EIGHTY

1. CONTRARY TO NEARLY ALL INDICATIONS AND PREDICTIONS OVER THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, AND PRESUMABLY CONTRARY TO THE LAWS OF NATURE, PRESIDUM MEMBER AND FORMER PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA IS STILL ALIVE AND SUFFICIENTLY WELL TO HAVE CELEBRATED HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY BY RECEIVING AND BEING PHOTOGRAPHED WITH HUSAK AND STROUGAL. ALL MAJOR DAILIES OF NOVEMBER 25 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE THREE AND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM BREZHNEV AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF KSC. TV NEWS PRECEDING EVENING HAD SOME FILM COVERAGE OF MEETING WITH HUSAK AND STROUGAL WHICH, WHILE INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE MUCH OF A CLUE TO SVOBODA'S STATE OF HEALTH, DOES PROVE THAT HE IS CAPABLE OF BEING UP AND ABOUT FOR AT LEAST A LIMITED PERIOD.

2. IN ADDITION TO SIMPLE FACT THAT SVOBODA HAS SURVIVED PHYSICALLY,  
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02989 260754Z

WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT HE HAS ALSO SURVIVED HISTORICALLY,

UNLIKE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COMMUNIST LEADERS ONCE OUT OF  
POWER. HUSAK APPARENTLY NOT ONLY FEELS UNTHREATENED BY  
WHATEVER FEELINGS SVOBODA MAY EVOKE AMONG CZECHOSLOVAKS,  
BUT PRESUMABLY SEES SOME BENEFIT TO BE GAINED BY TROTTERING  
OUT THE ONLY FATHER FIGURE THE NATION MAY HAVE.  
PERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PRAGUE02989  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750412-0305  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751111/aaaaajoc.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SVOBODA REACHES EIGHTY  
**TAGS:** PINT, CZ, (SVOBODA, LUDVIK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006